

From Sparks to FAX

By Richard R. Regent

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In addition to its helpful 24-hour information telephone hot line, 414-466-HAMS, the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club now has a 24-hour FAX number, 414-461-7730, which anyone can call to send written correspondence, questions and info to the MRAC!

Members can be contacted by radio on the MRAC repeater, W9RH, on 147.045 MHz, with a net on Fridays at 9:15 p.m. Other members are on the 28.4 MHz net on Fridays at 8:45 p.m.

The MRAC is the world's oldest continuously active radio amateur club - an old club with fresh innovative ideas. Club Secretary, Fred W9NZF, says, "We have been revitalizing the club, and encouraging new, younger members to become involved in club-related activities, and to make them feel welcome in a new old radio organization". The diamond anniversary, celebrating 75 years, of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club held last year was a success. MRAC is actively affiliated with the ARRL.

They have fascinating programs including guest speakers, technical demonstrations, video tapes, and an occasional home-brewers raffle of old radio components, plus an improved newsletter (*Hamateur Chatter*). The club also has a radio school covering all license classes and volunteers who can give exams.

Club President Ed, W9PWG, reports the Christmas party had 82 people attending who enjoyed delicious food, beautiful music, fun, door prizes and pretty flowers. Everyone got a *Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club from Spark to Space 75 Years* pen, compliments of Ed. After dinner, several appreciation awards were presented:

- **WB9LNU** - Updating club history, chairing special event stations, working on the two-meter repeater and demonstrating a 1917 spark transmitter.

- **WA9SFH** - Creating a database of members and mailing the newsletters.

- **KA9MTY** - Assisting with mailing newsletter.

- **KA9OFA** - Preparing and editing the newsletter, club program on surface mount technology.

- **W9VLK** - Taking the monthly club attendance.

- **W9JK** - Volunteering as an examiner at the license testing.

- **WB9BWP** - Overseeing the Charles Kactel Radio School activities.

The Club operated two special event stations from the Ozaukee County Pioneer Village, which is a 1840-1900's living museum about 12 miles north of Cedarburg, commemorating their 75th anniversary. Village arrangements are made through the coordination of W9NZF who is also President of the Ozaukee County Historical Society.

The MRAC Field Day event was held at the well attended Village, which happens to be one of the highest points in the county, has wide open dry fields and plenty of antenna room. W9NZF remarks, "We had one of our off duty operators act as a tour guide in explaining what the heck was going on!" Two special events were also held from the depot of the Village in the Fall.

Many members gather on Saturday mornings at 8:30 for breakfast at Maxims Restaurant to swap ideas over coffee and waffles. Their 10-meter net convenes on 28.4 MHz or on the MRAC repeater on 147.045 MHz every Friday at 9 p.m.

If you're in the Milwaukee area, check out the activities of the old, but new, MRAC. They meet on the last Thursday of the month, in the Wauwatosa Savings Bank basement, at 7500 West State Street, in Wauwatosa. If you need more information, ask them for their new brochure or just phone or FAX them. Best of luck to this fine group.